

Agenda for Transboundary Grasslands Conservation: Challenges and Solutions

February 13-15, 2018

Cottonwood Inn & Suites, Glasgow MT

Tuesday, Feb 13th – DAY 1: Big picture challenges

3:00 PM: WWF's Plowprint Report: Tracking land conversion in the northern Great Plains (Kevin Ellison, World Wildlife Fund)

3:30 PM: State and Change of Land Cover in the Grassland and Parkland Regions of Alberta; An Analysis from 1984 to 2016 (Ron McNeil, Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum)

3:45 PM: Grassland Ownership Trends and Community Resilience (Julia Haggerty, Montana State University)

4:15 PM: Climate challenges facing northern grasslands and ranches (Paul Stoy, Montana State University)

4:45 PM: Identification, challenges and opportunities in wildlife connectivity across the Northern Great Plains region (Andrew Jakes, National Wildlife Federation)

5:15- 6:00 PM: Social with drinks

6:00 PM: Dinner and plenary address (Errol Rice, Montana Stockgrowers Association)

Wednesday, Feb 14th : DAY 2: Solutions

8:00 AM: Jurisdictional update from Montana

8:15 AM: Jurisdictional update from Alberta

8:30 AM: Jurisdictional update from Saskatchewan

8:45 AM: Lessons learned in collaborative, landscape-scale conservation (Greg Neudecker and Jim Stone, Blackfoot Challenge/Partners for Conservation)

Solutions Sessions:

9:15 AM: Solutions Session #1: Bringing community and conservation together in Montana (Leo Barthelmess, Ranchers Stewardship Alliance)

9:45 AM: Solutions Session #2: Multiple approaches to habitat conservation: finding the right fit encourages producers to manage for Species at Risk habitat-(Tom Harrison, SODCAP)

10:15-10:30 AM: Coffee Break

10:30 AM: Solutions Session #3: The Nature Conservancy Matador Ranch Grassbank: conservation and collaboration- Charlie Messerly, TNC

11:00 AM: Cows and Fish: Lessons Learned From Supporting 25 years of Proactive Riparian Stewardship- (Norine Ambrose, Cows and Fish)

11:30-12:30 PM: Lunch Buffet (featuring prairie photography slide show by John Carlson)

12:30-1:45 PM: New and Emerging Solutions Panel: Farm Link/Grass Link, FWP Working Grasslands Initiative, USFWS-TNC Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (Catherine Wightman, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Annie Carlson, FarmLink and Kelsey Molloy, The Nature Conservancy)

1:45-2:00 PM: Coffee Break

2:00-5:00 PM TGP Work Plan Development

This session is open to all interested participants who support advancing TGP efforts. Jennifer Boyer will facilitate an interactive session with the following goals. Our discussion will 1) Affirm the role of the partnership and identify the strengths of the TGP 2) identify ways in which we can advance transboundary efforts beyond the communication that takes place during our workshops 3) create an achievable work plan with specific activities and clear direction for the next 12-18 months.

5:00-6:00 PM: Social with drinks

Dinner on your own

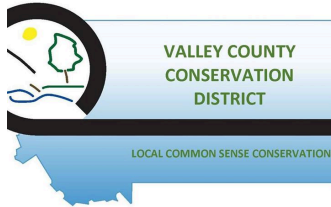
Thursday, Feb 15th – DAY 3: focused sessions

8:00 AM -12:00 PM Concurrent Breakout Session

1. Milk River Watershed working group: coordination between Milk River Watershed Alliance (MT) and Milk River Watershed Council Canada, including discussion of joint project on the St. Mary's diversion, rehabilitation, watershed promotional and educational videos/tools, and Transboundary Watershed health reporting opportunities (coordinator: Tim Romanow).
2. Science coordination: examples of successful past transboundary grasslands science collaborations, discussion of future needs for collaborative wildlife, ecological, or social research (coordinator: Kevin Ellison).
3. Sustainable beef programs: updates, discussion and coordination from various sustainable/ecological beef programs in the region. Will include Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (US and Canada), Audubon's Bird Friendly Beef, and others (coordinator: Nancy Labbe).

Conclusion of workshop, lunch on your own.

The Transboundary Grasslands Partnership Workshop Committee would like to thank the sponsors of
the 3rd Annual Workshop!



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